

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W

----- 119885

R 070600Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2229

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, XX

SUBJECT: PMAC CHAIRMAN'S FIRST CONTACT WITH DIPLOMATIC
CORPS

1. AT NOON DECEMBER 6 NEW PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TERERI BENTI MET WITH DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND SEVEN OTHER AMBASSADORS WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN SELECTED BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS A WHOLE TO REPRESENT THEM IN DISCUSSING CERTAIN ISSUES WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. WITH TEFERI WERE MOFA MINISTER OF STATE ARAYA AND FOUR DIRG MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES ARAYA SUBSEQUENTLY DECLINED TO PROVIDE.

2. TEFERI BENTI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WOULD REPORT HONESTLY AND FAIRLY WHAT IS GOING ON IN ETHIOPIA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT TRANQUILITY REIGNS.

3. ARAYA THEN READ A STATEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY CONTAINED NOTHING NEW ALTHOUGH IT EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WILL BE NO EXPROPRIATION OF FOREIGN ENTERPRISES. HE REPEATED THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY INTENTION OF EXECUTING HAILE SELASSIE, THAT THE REMAINING PRISONERS WOULD BE PROVIDED FAIR TRAILS, AND THAT THE EXECUTIONS OF NOVEMBER 23 HAD BEEN ESSENTIAL BECAUSE THOSE
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INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN PLOTTING AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT. TEFERI BENTI'S MEETING WITH THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS GROUP IS HIS FIRST KNOWN CONTACT WITH AMBASSADORS
HERE EXCEPT CURIOUSLY, FOR A MEETING WITH THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR
IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THAT REPORTED ABOVE. TEFERI BENTI
WAS REFERRED TO AT THE MEETING ONLY IN THE CAPACITY OF CHAIRMAN
OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.
WYMAN

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